



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

Media Advisory

October 4, 2004

ANDREWS & DUNCAN TO MARK FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF COUNTY FIRE SPRINKLER REQUIREMENT FOR NEW HOMES

“Controlled Fire” Demo in Bethesda to Show Effectiveness

Councilmember Phil Andrews and County Executive Doug Duncan will join with County fire administrator Gordon Aoyagi at a Wednesday news conference to mark the start of National Fire Safety Prevention Week – and the first anniversary of County legislation required fire sprinklers in all new homes in the County.

Fire & Rescue personnel will demonstrate the effectiveness of sprinkler systems by creating a “controlled fire” at a Bethesda home.

“Sprinkler systems can be the difference between life and death for County residents,” said Councilmember Phil Andrews, who sponsored the legislation and chairs the County’s Public Safety Committee. “They mean better protection for the biggest investment most of us will ever make – our home – and also help lower insurance costs.”

“The combination of a working smoke alarm and sprinkler system in a home almost guarantees that the residents will survive a fire,” said Duncan. “A sprinkler system is the most important thing that people can do to protect their families from harm.”

Prior to the legislation being signed into law last October 15, fire sprinklers were required in all new County multi-family dwellings and townhouses. Between 1991 and 2001, there were 52 deaths in non-sprinkled residences in Montgomery County – and zero deaths in sprinkled residences.

Prince George’s County has required sprinklers in all new residential buildings since 1989 and the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg both adopted the requirement in 2002. County residents can also get up to a 50 percent County property tax credit for retrofitting current homes with sprinklers.

When: Wednesday, October 6 10:45 AM

Where: 6809 Pyle Road in Bethesda

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or David Weaver 240-777-6548

